

NEWSLETTER

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SALEM WANTS YOU!!

The Salem Democratic Town Committee is seeking candidates for November's Election

To learn more, contact
gclosius@sbcglobal.net



There are a total of 15 seats on various boards and commissions that are will be on the ballot in the November 2025 election that we need candidates for. The list below details the positions/seats that will be on the ballot:

- **Board of Selectmen**
 - **First Selectman – 1 seat** *we need a candidate*
 - **Selectman – 2 members** *we need candidates*
- **Board of Education**
 - **3 members –** *we need candidates*
we have 1 person interested
- **Board of Finance**
 - **Member – 2** *we need candidates*
 - **Alternate member – 2** *we need candidates*
we have 1 person interested
- **Planning and Zoning Commission**
 - **Member – 3** *we need candidates*
we have 1 person interested
 - **Alternate member – 2** *we need candidates*
we have 1 person interested
- **Library Board of Directors**
 - **Member – 2** *we need candidates*
we have 1 candidate
- **Board of Assessment Appeals**
 - **Member – 2** *we need candidates*
we have 1 candidate
- **Zoning Board of Appeals**
 - **Member – 1** *we need a candidate*
we have 1 candidate
 - **Alternate Member – 1**

Message From State Senator Martha Marx (D 20th District)**Dear Neighbor,**

This week has been full of uncertainty and chaos as President Trump's administration ordered a reckless freeze of federal funding that was later apparently stayed by a judge. Earlier this week, state agencies and medical providers across the country were unable to access Medicaid payment systems. Childcare providers were unable to access Head Start funding.

Farmers who were promised federal aid for crop losses due to extreme weather were questioning whether that relief would come to fruition. Construction workers on federally funded infrastructure projects were unsure about their next paychecks. Households with various immigration statuses were staying home from school, medical appointments, or community activities because they feared their family would be targeted.

While I am unsure of what happens next, please know that Connecticut leaders remain determined to gain clarity and take every step necessary to protect the residents of our state, as well as the essential services they rely on. I will share updates as they become available, but I also want to provide you with important resources:

The ACLU has a comprehensive **"Know Your Rights" guide** when dealing with federal immigration enforcement. (click on the following link for the "Know Your Rights" guide:

<https://senatedems.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d71bd19fdb20f487488c3f4b&id=4a62506e64&e=9e5069c037>

Governor Lamont and the State Department of Education issued guidance to K-12 schools to protect students. (click on the following link for the issued guidance):

<https://senatedems.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d71bd19fdb20f487488c3f4b&id=76f76aaa20&e=9e5069c037>

In response to the chaos caused by the Trump administration, I joined my Democratic colleagues this week to provide an update to our constituents. While some of these actions may be reversed, federal funding remains uncertain and the fight isn't over. I will be here every step of the way, fighting for you and our working families. To watch my full remarks, click on the link below:

<https://senatedems.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d71bd19fdb20f487488c3f4b&id=27a49070ca&e=9e5069c037>.

Contact My Office

If you have a direct question about legislation or an issue you're seeking help with, please reach out to my office. My staff and I are dedicated to representing you and assisting you with any issues you may be experiencing. Please contact me at 860-240-0436 or by email at martha.marx@cga.ct.gov.

All the best,


Legislature Votes to Help Families of State Employees Killed in the Line of Duty

This week, the state legislature took action to support the families of two state workers who were tragically killed on the job last year. On Tuesday, we voted to provide enhanced survivor benefits to the families of a state trooper and a Department of Transportation employee, ensuring they receive the support they deserve despite being too young for pensions at the time of their deaths. I was proud to vote for this measure because we have a duty to those who risk their lives in service to our state.

Updates To State Water Plan

Fires, droughts, floods – Connecticut is seeing the impacts of changing weather systems in its own backyard, and to not address it now is like waiting to call the fire department until the flames spread to the room you're in. Statewide, from the coasts to the forests, the State Water Plan is especially important for our constituents and communities. Every municipality has water sources that can be impacted by flood and drought. The Water Plan needs to reflect all of the pressures facing Connecticut, including the one becoming more noticeable as time passes.



Message From State Representative Nick Menapace (D 37th District)

Dear Neighbor,

I hope this first newsletter finds you well.

I understand there is a lot of uncertainty, anxiety, and concern over the recent attempt by the federal government to pause non-defense and Social Security spending, while also ramping up arrests of immigrants in our communities. What I can say for sure is my colleagues and I will continue to fight to improve the lives of the residents of the 37th District and the state.

To that end, please scroll down and learn more about your rights and what we are doing at the Capitol this legislative session, as well as other news updates, and alerts I think you find useful.

Sincerely,

Nick Menapace

State Representative

Increasing Medicaid Reimbursement Rates

- Increase reimbursement rates.
- Bring all providers up to at least a 75-80% reimbursement bench mark.
- Fill the gap on home and behavioral health, dental, autism, naturopathy, and others.
- Create system for automatic future rate increases.

We understand what's going on nationally, but we can't stop doing our jobs for the people of Connecticut and that starts with putting forward good public policy. This week, House and Senate Democrats announced a legislative proposal to increase Medicaid reimbursement rates for providers, which is long overdue.

A recent state Medicaid Rate Study found that Connecticut lags well behind peer states when paying providers under Connecticut's Medicaid program. Many areas of care are currently reimbursed at the same levels they were in 2007. Increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates is a worthy investment, and that's the type of good work we're going to keep doing here.

Feeding CT Caucus Launches

I joined fellow legislators at a press conference this week to announce the launch of the bipartisan Feeding CT Caucus.

The purpose of the caucus is to advocate for the appropriation of more dollars to attack head-on the fact that one in eight residents (468,150) struggle with hunger in Connecticut according to Feeding America. Also, more than 112,000, including one in six children, are food insecure.

The Feeding CT Caucus will be requesting \$10 million for the CT-Nutrition Assistance Program (CT-NAP), which provides fresh food to Connecticut Foodshare, food pantries, soup kitchens, and emergency shelters across the state. Additionally, 15% of the funds would be utilized to purchase produce and other products from Connecticut farmers.

In Support of HB5986: To Establish A Refundable Child Tax Credit Tax Credit

With nearly 40% of Connecticut families unable to make ends meet, **HB5986** will benefit 550,000 children in the state. That's why I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this legislation and joined many others in support of the bill at a press conference this week.

Connecticut is the only high-cost-of-living state with a broad-based personal income tax that does not adjust for the number of children or childcare expenses. **HB5986** establishes a permanent refundable child tax credit against the personal income tax for up to three children, for \$600 per child, for tax filers with a federal adjusted gross income of \$100,000 or less for single filers or \$200,000 or less for married individuals filing jointly. For every \$1 in child tax credits, a family spends \$1.38 in the local economy.



Message From State Representative Nick Menapace (D 37th District, continued from p 3)**Reminder: Student Loan Reimbursement Program**

Connecticut college students can benefit from a bill passed to alleviate student loan debt.

The reimbursement program, led by House Democrats and the first of its kind in the nation, provides up to \$5,000/year for up to four years (up to \$20,000) in loan forgiveness. Six million **dollars has been allocated** in the current budget cycle and will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

The Office of Higher Education (OHE) may approve the participation of any person in the student loan reimbursement program who meets the following requirements:

- Must have graduated from a Connecticut state public or private college or university with a bachelor's or associate degree or have an occupational/professional license or certificate or left such college in good standing and was granted a hardship waiver by the Office of Higher Education.
- Must be a CT resident for at least five years.
- Must have a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than \$125,000 for single applicants and file a federal tax return as unmarried or have a Connecticut adjusted gross income of not more than \$175,000 for married applicants and file a federal tax return as head of household, married filing jointly or a surviving spouse.
- Must have an outstanding student loan balance and have made payments in 2024 toward federal direct loans, federal direct PLUS loans, federal Perkins loans, CHESLA loans, other state-sponsored student loans, or a private student loan.
- Must have volunteered for at least 50 hours at a Connecticut nonprofit organization registered with the Department of Consumer Protection, municipal government, served on the Board of Directors for a nonprofit organization, or has military service after January 1, 2024.

To find several qualifying non-profits for residents of the 37th District, please click on the following link:

<https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=c99eda5da9&e=52b625a5ef>.

Lastly, this program represents a true bipartisan effort and will have a direct impact not only on Connecticut's economy but also on its workforce.

Questions should be directed to OHE.SLRP@CT.GOV. The application process opened on January 1. For more information, including how to apply, please click on the following link:

<https://housedems.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d5ebe2531c17a98b4479a09e7&id=a6685db140&e=52b625a5ef>.

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Democrat Of The Month – Focus On Kay Zak

Kay D. Zak moved to Salem in 2016 from Commack, NY. She currently serves as the Vice Chair for the Salem Democratic Town Committee. Kay is the Salem Seniors Group Activity Director, a member of the Salem Lion's Club, and serves as its Membership Chair. She is a member of the Friends of the Salem Library, and she organizes the Salem Cemetery Cleanup efforts with Salem VFW. Kay has also served on the Salem Unsung Hero Committee since 2019.

Kay's past public service includes serving as President for the following organizations:

the Commack PTA for the John Mandracchia – Sawmill Intermediate School, the Commack Middle School, the Suffolk County PTA. She served as the Commack PTA Council President consisting of 8 schools from elementary to high school and Special Education Parent Teacher Association. She also served as a leader in the Commack Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops and was the Girl Scout Coordinator for Commack – (serving Troops from 8 schools).

Kay worked for Commack School District for 9 years and was the Office Manager for LMS Technical Services, Inc. for 25 years.



Opinion

A Crisis That Wasn't A Crisis Until President Trump Made It One.

Background

We all heard the news reports and read the headlines:

"After Trump Tariff Threats, Colombia Agrees to Accept Repatriates from the U.S." read the ABC News headline. "After Forcing Colombia to Back Down, White House Claims America is Respected Again" blared CNN.

The problem is that it wasn't true. Colombia didn't "back down". Trump created a fake crisis that would not have existed but for his bungling. Colombia and the U.S. didn't reach any new agreement. At the end of the day, the status of the U.S.-Colombia agreement was basically the same as it was at the beginning of the day and during the entirety of the Biden Administration – only more expensive.

The mainstream media/White House press office version of the story:

According to this version, Colombia denied the U.S. the ability to send back to Colombia their residents who were scheduled for deportation. Trump, the savvy statesman, threatened President Petro with massive tariffs on Colombian coffee if Petro didn't comply. For a few hours, Petro fought back and floated his own retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods, but eventually backed down and agreed to Trump's demands.

What really happened:

First there was no crisis to be solved. President Biden made an agreement with Colombia back in 2022 for the country to accept three flights a week of deportees. Biden was already regularly sending deportation flights to Colombia, as well as Mexico and other countries in Latin America. Most of the flights were managed by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) using chartered aircraft made for civilians. However, just to be as fiscally irresponsible as possible, when Trump came into office, he decided to send a group of deportees on a much more expensive military plane to Colombia without clearing the change with the Colombian government. Early on Friday January 24th, the White House posted a photo of people in shackles being led onto a military aircraft with the caption "deportation flights have begun." It was a move that was designed to be provocative and instead of working it out diplomatically, Trump put on a show of threatening sanctions and tariffs on all Colombian exports, and Colombia threatened reciprocal tariffs on U.S. goods. The primary reason President Petro objected was the returning immigrants were not being treated with dignity. The standoff ended with Colombia agreeing to accept the migrants but insisting they be flown back on Colombian military flights, provided they were not hand cuffed and escorted by Homeland Security personnel not troops, a move that Colombia's Petro argued would ensure the deportees' dignity. By the end of the day, the U.S. and Colombia were back to the same deal that existed during the Biden administration – except dumber, because Trump reserved the right to use military planes for the flights even though they are vastly more expensive. Had Trump done nothing at all, the U.S. would be better off.

Colombia had accepted 475 deportation flights under the Biden Administration, more than 120 in 2024 alone, all without the threat a trade war.

Opinion

Trump played the media like a fiddle, getting glowing headlines trumpeting his victory over Colombian President Petro, insinuating that America had won a new right to send deported Colombian nationals back to their home country. The media believed that it was a real crisis, and played it like Trump had won a concession. But it wasn't a crisis. And Trump didn't win a concession. All he did was damage a key bilateral relationship and give a giant gift-wrapped present to China. The incident should serve as proof of how terrible Trump is as a diplomat, and how dangerous it is to have a media that is so overwhelmed by the ferocious pace of news from the White House that it often ends up parroting Trump's talking points and White House press releases instead of asking hard questions and getting to the truth.

Trump did do something on Sunday January 26th – he created a pretend crisis and then pretended to solve the pretend crisis. And it's pretty amazing – and very, very worrying – that most of the press fell for it, resulting in headlines like the BBC's "*Colombia Yields on Deportation Flights to Avoid a Trade War*" and the Associated Press' "*White House Says Colombia Agrees to Take Deported Migrants After Trump Tariff Showdown.*"

The other thing Trump did Sunday was open a major rift between the U.S. and a very important ally. Colombia is

Opinion (continued from p 5)

A Crisis That Wasn't A Crisis Until President Trump Made It One.

a key partner in the work to prevent the flow of illegal drugs into the United States. That work will undoubtedly be impacted by Trump's tantrum and Americans' lives will be in jeopardy. We rely on Colombia to take in millions of Venezuelan migrants to stem the flow of those people to the United States. This fake crisis, along with Trump's separate boneheaded decision to shutter aid programs for Venezuelan migrants in Colombia, will result in more Venezuelans showing up at the U.S. border.

Additionally, our adversaries gloat when Trump pushes nations in their direction. On Sunday, in the middle of the Trump manufactured drama, China posted on social media that Chinese-Colombian relations are currently at a 45-year high. China's claim that they, not the U.S., are the low drama, stable partner for South American nations – many rich in the critical minerals the U.S. economy needs to succeed – just got more potent this weekend.

The more Trump gets away with this fake drama, the more Trump will create. President Petro is a savvy leader who didn't let Trump's stupid, self-aggrandizing theatrics spill into conflict. But somewhere else down the line, Trump won't be quite as lucky. It's time for all of us – including the media – to understand what is a real crisis and what isn't. If we don't learn this early lesson, then someday one of Trump's fake crises will turn into a deadly real one.

By: Gary Closius – Chairman – Salem DTC – January 30, 2024

(Portions excerpted from an e-mail from "Friends of Chris Murphy" dated 01/30/2025, Newsweek article "**Colombian Migrants Describe Deportation Flights: 'We're Not Criminals'**" by Amir Daftari, published 10/29/2025, and Associated Press article: "**White House says Colombia Agrees To Take Deported Migrants After Trump Tariff Showdown**" by Regina Garcia Cano, Astrid Suárez, and Zeke Miller published 10/26/2025.)

Gun Violence – 2025 Statistics And Data

| 2025 | Mass Shootings | Deaths | Injuries |
|---------------|----------------|-----------|------------|
| TOTALS | 23 | 27 | 103 |
| January | 23 | 27 | 103 |
| February | | | |
| March | | | |
| April | | | |
| May | | | |
| June | | | |
| July | | | |
| August | | | |
| September | | | |
| October | | | |
| November | | | |
| December | | | |

* Data current through January 31st

| The 10 States With The: | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Strictest Gun Laws | Most Lenient Gun Laws |
| California | Mississippi |
| Illinois | Wyoming |
| New York | Montana |
| Connecticut | Idaho |
| Hawaii | Georgia |
| New Jersey | Arkansas |
| Maryland | South Dakota |
| Massachusetts | Oklahoma |
| Washington | New Hampshire |
| Colorado | Kentucky |

| Shootings By State | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| State | # Current Month | # Year To Date | State | # Current Month | # Year To Date |
| Alabama | 1 | 1 | Montana | 0 | 0 |
| Alaska | 0 | 0 | Nebraska | 1 | 1 |
| Arizona | 1 | 1 | Nevada | 0 | 0 |
| Arkansas | 0 | 0 | New Hampshire | 0 | 0 |
| California | 3 | 3 | New Jersey | 0 | 0 |
| Colorado | 0 | 0 | New Mexico | 0 | 0 |
| Connecticut | 0 | 0 | New York | 1 | 1 |
| Delaware | 0 | 0 | North Carolina | 0 | 0 |
| District of Colum | 1 | 1 | North Dakota | 0 | 0 |
| Florida | 1 | 1 | Ohio | 0 | 0 |
| Georgia | 0 | 0 | Oklahoma | 0 | 0 |
| Hawaii | 0 | 0 | Oregon | 0 | 0 |
| Idaho | 0 | 0 | Pennsylvania | 0 | 0 |
| Illinois | 1 | 1 | Rhode Island | 0 | 0 |
| Indiana | 1 | 1 | South Carolina | 0 | 0 |
| Iowa | 0 | 0 | South Dakota | 0 | 0 |
| Kansas | 0 | 0 | Tennessee | 2 | 2 |
| Kentucky | 0 | 0 | Texas | 4 | 4 |
| Louisiana | 3 | 3 | Utah | 0 | 0 |
| Maine | 0 | 0 | Vermont | 0 | 0 |
| Maryland | 1 | 1 | Virginia | 1 | 1 |
| Massachusetts | 0 | 0 | Washington | 0 | 0 |
| Michigan | 0 | 0 | West Virginia | 0 | 0 |
| Minnesota | 1 | 1 | Wisconsin | 0 | 0 |
| Mississippi | 0 | 0 | Wyoming | 0 | 0 |
| Missouri | 0 | 0 | | | |

Total deaths (all causes) in the U.S. due to gun violence* 1,520**
Total injuries (all causes) in the U.S. due to gun violence* 2,546

* Data through January 31st ** Totals not including suicide

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| DARK BLUE: | Democrats won the majority 4 times |
| LIGHT BLUE: | Democrats won the 3 times |
| PURPLE: | Democrats and Republicans each won twice |
| LIGHT RED | Republicans won the 3 times |
| DARK RED | Republicans won the 4 times |

School Year 2025/2026 Budget Information

The Board of Education has started meeting to discuss the S/Y 2025/2026 budget. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget was presented to the Board of Education on January 13th. (click on the following link to view the Superintendent's Proposed Budget: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18sEzQaOAitHlwKccgEXKry6gAID5gD11/view>)

The Board of Education also held a Special Budget Workshop on January 21st. The budget dates are posted on the Budget Section of the website in the right column.

Follow the budget process by visiting the Budget Section of the website. The website will be updated throughout the budget process.

Superintendent's Budget S/Y 2025-2026

| | Actual S/Y 2022-2023 | Actual S/Y 2023-2024 | Budget Approved S/Y 2024-2025 | Budget Requested S/Y 2025-2026 | \$ Difference S/Y 2025-2026 vs 2024-2025 | % Difference S/Y 2025-2026 vs 2024-2025 |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Total for Salem School (Pre-K through Grade 8) | \$6,219,342 | \$5,996,268 | \$6,500,729 | \$7,018,377 | \$517,648 | 7.96% |
| Total for Salem School District Central Office | \$1,004,039 | \$1,274,667 | \$1,191,536 | \$1,206,024 | \$14,488 | 1.22% |
| Total for East Lyme High School Program | \$3,098,681 | \$2,625,635 | \$2,919,966 | \$3,529,677 | \$609,711 | 20.88%* |
| Total for Out of District Services | \$996,058 | \$1,096,625 | \$1,065,602 | \$761,196 | (\$304,406) | -28.57%** |
| Grand Total | \$11,318,120 | \$10,993,195 | \$11,677,833 | \$12,515,274 | \$837,441 | 7.17% |

Key Highlights of the Superintendent's Budget

- 7.17% Budget increase
 - 4.16% (of the 7.17% increase) is to maintain our current staffing, programming, curricular resources and class sizes.
 - Approximately 3.00% (of the 7.17% increase) is to support the following program enhancements that are being recommended based on the feedback from staff and families as well as an examination of the needs for continuing to enhance programming the following is being recommended for the S/Y 2025/2026 budget.
 - Additional Pre-K teacher to manage increasing size and needs of the Pre-K program.
 - Increase the 0.6PE position to 1.0 FTE to allow for the more PE/Health education as well as provide scheduling flexibility for middle school.
 - Addition of 2 Paraprofessionals.
 - 0.5 Talented and Gifted – stand alone position.

* EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

TUITION

Regular Education and Special Education: East Lyme High School tuition rates for 25-26 are \$18,840.38 for regular education, \$35,646.71 for special education. The regular education rate is a 12.62% increase over 24-25. The special education rate is an increase of 4.64% over 24-25. The anticipated regular education enrollment at East Lyme High School of Salem students for 25-26 is 126, an increase of 2 students. Special education enrollment for known students, is anticipated to be 18 students, a decrease of 1 student.

Reconciliation: The adjusted amount of actual 23-24 East Lyme High School costs based on the reconciliation process as outlined in the Cooperative Agreement.

TRANSPORTATION

Late Bus: This item was cut from the budget for 17-18 and will not be reinstated in 25-26.

Special Education/Alternative Education: Transportation fees to and from regular or extended mandated services.

% Bus Transportation and % Fuel Costs: Fuel costs have been estimated at \$3.00/gallon for diesel and \$3.00/gallon for gas.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Some students may require any or all of the following services in a given year: extended programs, evaluations and 1:1 aides. These are considered services beyond the basic tuitioned amount per the East Lyme/Salem Cooperative Agreement. Salem funds and provides these mandated services directly to our East Lyme High School students.

School Year 2025/2026 Budget Information (continued from p 7)

**** OUT OF DISTRICT SERVICES**

TUITION

Magnet School (K – 12): We currently have students attending 7 different Magnet Schools. There will be 14 students at Magnet Schools in 25-26. 9 of those students will be in grades K-8.

Lebanon Vo-Ag (Grades 9 – 12): Anticipated tuition amount is for 3 students, based on anticipated enrollment.

Tuition out-of-district Student Attending Salem: Anticipate zero students attending Salem School from out of town.

SPED Placements (Pre-K – Grade 12+): Tuition costs are for 8 out-of-district placements for known students for a defined 10-month school year, this is a decrease of 4 students from 24-25 budget. \$58,466 in anticipated special education excess cost revenue has been used to offset these expenses. The budget calculation for the line item is total tuition - \$401,498 less Special education excess cost est. - \$58,466 equals line-item budget \$343,032.

Extended Programs: Costs are for those students requiring special education and attending out of district schools who require more than a standard 10-month program or an extended school day program during the summer. There are currently 6 students in these programs.

TRANSPORTATION

Magnet School (K – 12): Salem does not provide transportation for students attending Magnet Schools during the 24-25 school year.

Vocational Schools (Grades 9 – 12): Costs for transportation of high school students to Lebanon Vo-Ag, Grasso Tech, and Norwich Tech are included.

Special Education: Out-of-district transportation is provided for special needs students. Amount budgeted reflects transportation for the placements for 25-26.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

Some out-of-district students may require any of the following services in a given year: tutors, evaluations, therapy, consultation, special supplies, equipment, or me bound services. Salem funds and provides these mandated services directly to Salem students. These expenses cover Magnet School students and those out placed at non-district facilities.

Around Town

* *The following information was excerpted from the First Selectman and CT State Police Troop K January reports*

• **Tax Collector***

- The collection rate for January was 89.85%.
- Late notices will begin to be mailed out February 3rd.

• **Recreation Commission**

- See p 13 for Recreation Commission events.

• **Emergency Services*:**

- **Fire Marshal Report**

| Emergency Calls: | | Calls Town: | | Mutual Aid: Provided Given | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| * Fire | 2 | * Bozrah | 3 | * Bozrah | 2 4 |
| * EMS Calls | 31 | * Salem | 28 | * Colchester | 4 2 |
| * Hazmat Calls | 1 | * Colchester | 4 | * East Haddam | 1 0 |
| * Service Calls | 3 | * Lebanon | 1 | * Montville | 1 0 |
| * False Alarms | <u>7</u> | * Lyme | 1 | * Lebanon | 1 0 |
| TOTAL CALLS | 44 | * East Haddam | 1 | * Lyme | 1 0 |
| | | * Montville | <u>6</u> | * Oakdale | <u>4</u> <u>4</u> |
| | | TOTAL CALLS | 44 | TOTALS | 14 10 |

› **Total Calls by Station:**

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| * Station 27 (GLVFC) | 10 |
| * Station 21 (SVFC) | 18 |
| * Service Calls (Town of Salem) | <u>31</u> |
| TOTAL CALLS | 59 |

› **Annual Fire Safety Inspections Completed in January:**

- * Gardner Lake Liquors
- * Gardner Lake Autobody

Around Town *(continued from p 8)*

• **Salem Resident State Trooper & Colchester Troop K***

During the month of December 2024, the Salem Resident Trooper as well as Troop K Troopers responded to **144** calls for service In the Town of Salem. Of these calls, the most notable are:

▸ **Calls For Service:**

| | <u>December</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| * Accidents | 9 | 9 |
| * Criminal Investigations | 9 | 9 |
| * Burglaries | 0 | 0 |
| * Larcenies | 0 | 0 |
| * Nonreportable Matters | 73 | 73 |
| * Total Arrests | <u>4</u> | <u>4</u> |
| TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE | 119 | 119 |

▸ **Motor Vehicle Enforcement:**

| | <u>December</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| * Onsite DUIs | 0 | 0 |
| * Arrests | 1 | 1 |
| * Misdemeanor Summons | 0 | 0 |
| * Infractions | 13 | 13 |
| * Written Warnings | 6 | 6 |
| * Verbal Warnings | <u>6</u> | <u>6</u> |
| TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS | 26 | 26 |

• **The Salem Free Public Library (SFPL) Director's Report***

▸ **Library News:**

- The SFPL held two storytimes in January, with a total of 51 attendees.
- From January 6 to February 28 the SFPL is holding its annual Winter reading Program. There is a bingo sheet for patrons to track their reading, and each bingo receives a raffle ticket.
- On Saturday, January 13, the SFPL held a Crochet a Scarf program for teens and adults. This program was completely full with a wait list of over 12 requests. There were 13 attendees.
- On January 20, we hosted presenter Ginny Apple from DEEP, and she spoke about Moose in Connecticut. We had 26 attendees.
- On Saturday, January 25th, 2025 SFPL hosted their 3rd annual Garden Party. The mission of the Garden Party is to teach and inspire Salem's gardeners and to provide a respite from the cold winter months. Hannah Lynch, programming assistant also invited Marjorie Meekhoff from Pollinator Pathway and Master Gardener and Salem resident Veronika Burlingham to present on composting. Hannah also maintains our Seed Library at SFPL. The Garden Party also kicks off our very popular Seed Library program in which patrons can take 3 packs of seeds per visit as well as help themselves to educational materials and seed catalogs. This year we had our biggest attendance yet with 56 total guests and approximately 350 seed packets taken overall. We were fortunate enough to receive seed donations from KNOX in Hartford, CT and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds in Montana.
- The SFPL has been a popular place for groups within the community. We have hosted 2 senior groups, a book club, 2 quilters groups, a knitting group, a homeschooling group, and groups from New Beginnings, where aides bring clients in to use our computers, check out books, and spend time in the library.
- The SFPL distributed 39 craft kits in January.

▸ **Library Building And Collection:**

- The SFPL's large meeting room and front entryway has new flooring! It looks wonderful! A big thank you to Jerry at B & T Tile and Kevin Lyden for all the help in coordinating this!
- ***The SFPL served 1,398 patrons and provided 52 patrons with technical help in January.***

See pp 11-12 for additional SFPL events.

The Salem DTC Meeting Schedule – 2025

The Salem DTC 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting Schedule

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| • Wednesday, March 5th, at 7:00 PM, at the Center School | • Wednesday, April 3rd, at 7:00 PM, at the Center School | • Wednesday, May 7th, 7:00 PM, at the Center School |
| • Wednesday, June 4th, at 7:00 PM, at the Center School | • Wednesday, July 2nd, at 7:00 PM, at the Center School | • Wednesday, Aug. 6th, 7:00 PM, at the Center School |

Montville Animal Shelter

Montville Animal Shelter

The Montville Animal Shelter is planning to break ground sometime in March. There is a group being started called the Montville Animal Welfare Initiative Inc. A community group prioritizing Animal Welfare. You can see their posts on the Salem CT Town Group or visit their FB page at

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=montville%20animal%20welfare%20initiative>

Article by: Rita Howell

Public Town Meetings For February/March

Meetings in March 2025

Library Board of Directors,
February 11th, 6:00 PM

Board of Finance,
February 13th, 5:30 PM

Board of Education, Policy
February 24th, 5:00 PM

Recreation Commission,
February 24th

Board of Finance,
February 27th, 7:00 PM

Board Of Ed. Personnel/Contract Negotiations,
March 3rd, 7:00 PM

Inland Wetlands & Conservation Commission,
March 3rd, 7:00 PM

Planning & Zoning Commission
February 11th, 7:00 PM

Charter Revision Commission,
February 20th, 7:00 PM

Board of Education, Budget/Finance,
February 24th, 6:00 PM

Planning & Zoning Commission
February 25th, 7:00 PM

Board of Education Long Range Education Planning, March 3rd, 5:00 PM

Board of Education,
March 3rd, 7:00 PM

Board of Selectmen,
March 4th, 6:00 PM

To view the Town Public Meeting Calendar, click on:

<https://www.salemct.gov/calendar-by-event-type/16/month/2025-01>

Community Help / Assistance

211 INFOLINE HELP STARTS HERE

Call 2-1-1 for your connection to:

- Alzheimer’s resources
- Basic needs – food, clothing, shelter
- Child care services
- Child health care
- Consumer health
- Crisis intervention
- Disability services
- Drug & alcohol programs
- Emergency shelter
- Emergency assistance
- Financial assistance
- Health care
- HIV/AIDS
- Housing
- Legal assistance
- Parenting programs
- Pre-natal care
- Senior services
- Suicide prevention
- Transportation
- Veteran’s services
- Volunteering
- And much more

CARE & SHARE

Care & Share of East Lyme, Inc. provides food, financial and emergency support to individuals and families in East Lyme, Niantic, and Salem. ***If you are interested in receiving assistance, contact them at 860-739-8502.*** Leave a message with your name, telephone number and the type of assistance you are looking for, as well as the best time you can be reached. A responder will confidentially return your call. **To see what other services they provide visit their website by clicking on: careandshareofel.org/.**

[Community Help / Assistance](#) (continued from p 10)

THAMES VALLEY COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY ACTION (TVCCA)



CONNECTION = Volunteering & Veterans Coffeehouses

Now more than ever community support is so important and impactful! AmeriCorps Seniors offers the support someone needs to remain living at home. Our volunteers lend a hand with grocery shopping needs, visiting, phone reassurance or local medical rides. If you are 55+ contact us to hear how your help may improve the quality of life of an elderly or disabled person by volunteering to help a neighbor in your community.

Our volunteers are here for the community! Our services are available free of charge to seniors or disabled people that are homebound and need help with grocery shopping, medical rides, and visiting.

Contact: Renee LaBonte, Program Coordinator of Senior Volunteer Services at 860-425-6608 or e-mail: rlabonte@tvcca.org.

Visit our website by clicking on: tvcca.org or facebook.com/TVCCArsvp/.

CONNECT WITH VETERANS! TVCCA hosts monthly veteran coffeehouses to meet and socialize with other veterans and their spouses and receive information about veteran benefits and services. We host coffeehouses in Groton, Mystic, New London, Pawcatuck, Norwich, and Montville.

Contact James Hodge, Veterans Coffeehouse Coordinator at 860-425-6615 or e-mail: jhodge@tvcca.org.

- **Energy Assistance: the current energy assistance season (2024/25) has begun:**
Important Dates To Remember For The Current Energy Assistance Season:
 - September 1, 2024: First day for a household to apply for the program.
 - November 1, 2024: First day for fuel deliveries that can be paid for by the program.
 - April 1, 2025: Deadline for fuel authorizations or deliveries.
 - May 30, 2025: The last day that a household can apply to establish eligibility for benefits.
 - June 17, 2025: Last day to submit deliverable fuel bills.
- **Food and Nutrition programs include:**
 - Meals on Wheels and Senior Nutrition programs, as well as WIC and SNAP (food Stamps) assistance programs. For more information visit: <https://www.tvcca.org/food-nutrition/>.

[Community News You Can Use](#)

HOUSE NUMBER SIGNS

The Salem Fire Co. is selling Emergency "911" Reflective Address Signs that will have your street number on it. These signs make it easier for emergency responders to find your home or property at any time of the day or night. ***If emergency response workers can't find you, they can't help you!*** Minutes and seconds count in emergencies.

They are 6" x 18" in size and come in green or blue. The sign can be mounted to your existing mailbox either in a horizontal or vertical position, or if you do not have a mailbox, it can be mounted to a post at the end of your driveway.

See the attached form on page 15 of the newsletter to order your sign.



SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

[News & Events](#)

- **Museum Passes and Discounted Admission Passes**

The Salem Free Public Library Offers Museum Passes And Discounted Admission Passes to many of the museums in our state, **visit the library, or go to the library website by clicking on:**

salemct.gov/library/pages/museum-passes to view the library website and view what they have to offer and pass availability.

Community News You Can Use *(continued from p 11)*

SALEM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY *(continued)*

Books In The Afternoon Book Club – Thursday – February 27th at 1:00 PM.

“All Things Cease to Appear” by: Elizabeth Brundage,

“This literary thriller's complex narrative involves a cursed house, an unsolved murder and impeccable writing.”
—The New York Times Book Review. Recent transplants to the small town of Chosen, New York, the Clares have not received the warmest welcome; once a thriving dairy farm, their home is haunted by the tragedy that left the former owner's three sons orphaned and adrift. As one dark secret peels away to reveal others—and as the Clare marriage reveals itself to have a sinister darkness that rivals the farm's history—Elizabeth Brundage offers a rich and complex portrait of the scars that can haunt a community for generations and the dark longings inside each and every one of us that drive us to do inexplicable things.

Adults over 18 are welcome. To join the group, e-mail Christine Murtha at: murthachristine@yahoo.com.
Adults over 18 are welcome. To join the group, e-mail Christine Murtha at: murthachristine@yahoo.com.

- **Winter Storytimes**

Wednesdays, February 5th & 19th.

Please register at the
circulation desk
or call 860-859-1130



- **Fall in Love With Frankie**

Thursday, February 13th, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Ages 18 and up

Whether you want to read or
snuggle, Frankie the
Therapy dog is here for you.

Call 860 859-1130 to register

Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library



- **Oreo Cookie Tasting**

Saturday, March 8th, 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join us as we taste a variety of
Oreo cookies and vote on
which is our favorite!



Call 860 859-1130 to register

Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library

- **Salem Free Public Library Tote Bags For Sale**



**Available at the circulation
desk @ the library.**

**\$10.00 Cash or Check made
payable to the Town of Salem**



- **2025 Winter Reading**

January 6th, through February 28th

Register at the circulation desk beginning
January 6th to receive your BINGO reading
log.

Receive a raffle ticket for each BINGO completed
when you turn in your log by February 28th



- **Swiftie Bracelet Making**

February 22nd, 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Come join us to make
friendship bracelets and play
Taylor Swift Trivia while
listening to Taylor Swift.

Ages 8 and up

Call 860 859-1130 to register

Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library



- **Leprechaun Trap Kit**

Available beginning March 10th

Have you ever tried to catch a leprechaun?

Leprechauns are mischievous,
magical and hard to catch!

*Reserve a leprechaun trap kit
to see if you have any luck!*

All decorations are included in the kit.

*We do have a limited supply
of boxes available if you need one!*

Just ask at the circulation desk.

**Call 860 859-1130 to reserve a kit
Suitable for ages 5-12**

Sponsored by the Friends of the Salem Free Public Library



Community News You Can Use (continued from p 12)

SALEM RECREATION DEPARTMENT

There are many activities for Salem residents of all ages:

• **Adult Rec Co-Ed Pick-Up Games**

PICKLEBALL



| | |
|--|---|
| Tuesdays 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM October 1 st to April 8 th | Saturdays 9:00 PM – 11:00 AM October 19 th to April 5 th |
| Salem School Multi-Purpose Room | |

VOLLEYBALL



Tuesdays
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
October 1st to April 8th
Salem School Gym

BASKETBALL



Tuesdays
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM
October 1st to April 8th
Salem School Gym

Open Gym Games for Salem & East Lyme Residents, ages 18 & up. Sign in upon arrival

• **Pilates**



Monday evenings, 5:50 – 6:30 PM
Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse, 429, Old Colchester Road.
\$60 Residents, \$65 Non-Resident

Please wear comfortable clothing, bring a yoga mat, and water. Extra mats are available if needed.

Registration: <https://www.salemct.gov/recreation/register>, or call 860-859-3873 x275

Salem Lion’s Club 2025 Charity Comedy Night

Saturday March 15th at 7:00 PM at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse, 429 old Colchester Road, Salem.

FEATURING Howie Mason and Linda Belt.



Doors open at 6:00 PM / Snacks / Raffles / Cash Bar featuring “Fox Farms Beer”, wine will also be available.

The money raised will go to support the Salem Lion’s Club Scholarship Fund.

\$25 admission, Limited Tickets Available – Order Earley

May Contain Adult Content, No One Under 21 Admitted.

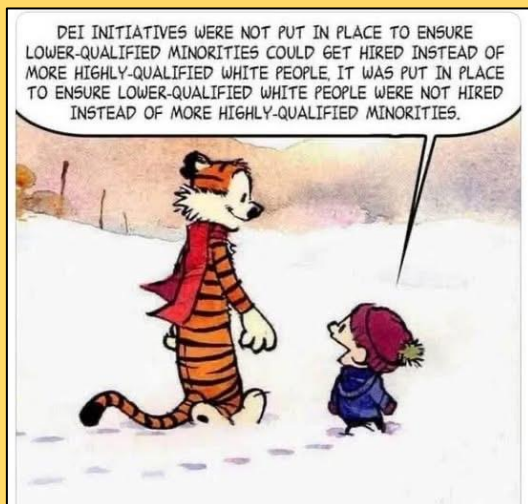
To ORDER TICKETS (and drinks) paste the URL below into your browser:

<https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/2025-salem-ct-lions-charity-comedy-show> or scan the QR code



SCAN ME

(The Zeffy ticketing platform is free for non-profit organizations. Instead of a mandatory ticket surcharge, they ask that you consider a donation. You can change or eliminate the donation default on the screen.) If you have questions, contact the Comedy Show Committee via email at: salemctlionscomedy@gmail.com.



[Community News You Can Use](#) *(continued from p 13)*



32nd Annual Lion's Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 12, 2025, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM
at the Salem School Gymnasium and Bingham Field**



AGES: **Group 1** – Toddlers to Kindergarten **Group 2** – Grades 1 & 2 **Group 3** – Grades 3 & 4
FREE to Salem youth – toddlers up to and including grade 4

EVENTS: **Easter Egg Hunt** – Kids scramble for candy and prize filled plastic Easter Eggs

Egg Decorating Contest – Bring your decorated egg to be judged,
1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes for all 3 age groups

Easter Art/Pictures Contest – Bring your own Easter artwork to be judged
1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes for all 3 age groups

Jelly Bean Race – Run with a jelly bean on a spoon – Prizes for all winners

Bring your Easter Baskets – Salem Families Welcome – Bring your camera in case the Easter Bunny hops by
Sponsored by the Salem Recreation Commission and the Salem Lion's Club



[Volunteer Opportunities](#)

FRIENDS OF THE SALEM THE LIBRARY (FOSL)

The Friends of The Salem Library could always use help sorting books for the book sale, and at the book sales. For future book sorting and book pick-up and work dates, stay tuned and watch for notifications on Facebook. **If you would like to help, contact Carl Nawrocki at 860-608-9970, or Bart Drennen at 860-235-5889.**

GARDNER LAKE AND SALEM VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES

Both the Salem and Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Companies are looking for volunteers of **ALL AGES**.

- Salem Volunteer Fire Company – NON-EMERGENCY PHONE: 860-859-0942. To visit their website, click on: <https://www.salemfireco.com/>.
- Gardner Lake Fire Company – NON-EMERGENCY PHONE: 860- 859-1743. To visit their website, click on: gardnerlakevolunteerfirecompany.com/home.

MITCHELL FARM EQUINE RETIREMENT

The Horse Retirement, Horse Sanctuary is looking for help.

Contact Dee Doolittle 860 303-8705, or e-mail: dee@mitchellfarm.org.

SALEM SCHOOL

Volunteers are always welcome at **Salem School**. Anyone interested in volunteering can go to the Salem School website by clicking on: salemschools.org. Put the cursor over the "Our School" tab, & click on the "Forms tab" to access the form, OR visit the school and fill out the form at the front desk of the school. Make sure you bring a picture ID with you.

LION'S CLUB

The Lions are looking for volunteers. **Contact Dan Holle at 860-300-7570, or Hugh McKenney at 860-303-0042.**

CARE & SHARE

Care & Share of East Lyme, Inc. provides food, financial and emergency support to individuals and families in East Lyme, Niantic, and Salem. If you are able, please bring a nonperishable food item to our monthly meeting **If you are interested in volunteering your time, contact them at 860-739-8502.**

[Volunteer Opportunities](#) (continued from p 14)

THE SALEM LAND TRUST

The Salem Land Trust (SLT) is an all-volunteer non-profit organization permanently conserving land in Salem for wildlife, their habitats, and for people to enjoy nature. Many volunteers begin by helping to keep our miles of hiking trails clear. Each of our 9 Preserves have experienced land Stewards assigned to them, so new volunteers start learning the job from them and other SLT members experienced with being "in the woods." Out in the field, experienced hikers and wildlife lovers cannot help but pass on their knowledge of nature on to all new volunteers. We also have volunteer opportunities in our Membership and Events Committee as we are always looking for new ways to bring the wonder of nature to more people.

For more information or if you are interested in volunteering contact Linda Schroeder: e-mail: lschroeder@snet.net or call 860-908-9553.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

The Salem VFW is always looking for help to clean up the cemeteries. **Watch the Facebook website for future dates for cemetery clean up opportunities.**

Please bring your gloves, weed-whacker, mower, rakes, and tarps. If you are interested in helping or have a need contact Kay Zak at: 860-889-3989 or e-mail at: kayzak@hotmail.com.

[Senior News](#)

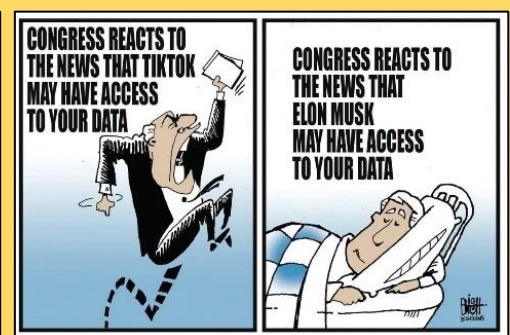
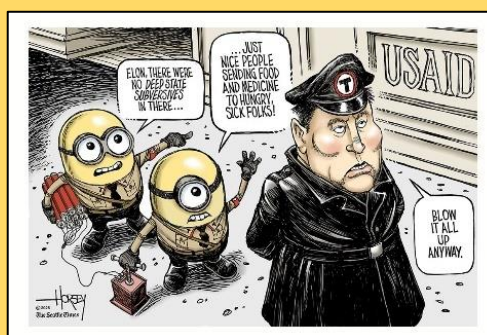
The Salem Senior Citizen's Group (SSG) boasts a current enrolment of over 170 members. Membership has tripled since the beginning of 2022. **Salem (or surrounding town) residents age 50 years or older are welcome to join the Salem Senior Citizen's Group!**

Due to the increase in meeting attendance, the Salem Seniors Group (SSG) have outgrown the Salem Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse. **Beginning with the January 14th meeting monthly meetings will be held at the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Co. Firehouse at 429 Old Colchester Road, Salem.** The meeting day and time will remain the same unchanged.

Meetings include town discussions, news, and updates, and interesting guest speakers. After the meeting noon lunch is provided. Trips, events, activities, and classes, throughout the year, are developed by our members.

For more information, contact Gary Closius (President): gclosius@sbcglobal.net, or call 860-961-9173, or Mary Cikatzen (Vice President): mcikatz@yahoo.com, or call 860-287-7275.

Use the following link to view our monthly newsletter: salemct.gov/salem-senior-citizens/pages/salem-seniors-group-newsletters and click on the one you want.



[To Get A Copy Of The Newsletter](#)

If you would like to receive this newsletter via e-mail, please send your request along with your e-mail address to:

Gary Closius: gclosius@sbcglobal.net

[Salem DTC Contact Information](#)

Gary Closius – Chairman – gclosius@sbcglobal.net

Kay Zak – Vice Chairperson – kayzak@hotmail.com

Leslie Hotary – Secretary – hotaryleslie@gmail.com

Gary Closius – Newsletter Editor – gclosius@sbcglobal.net

Address Sign Order Form

911 REFLECTIVE ADDRESS SIGN ORDER FORM

Please mail the **completed order form** along with a check for **\$15.00** to:

Salem Volunteer Fire Company
424 Hartford Road
Salem, CT 06420

Name

Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Telephone Number


Best Contact Time

E-mail Address

ADDRESS #:

SIGN ORIENTATION:

Horizontal 

Vertical 

COLOR PREFERENCE:

GREEN

BLUE

Cut along the dotted line, complete the form, enclose a check for \$15.00 made out to Salem Volunteer Fire Company, and mail it to: Salem Volunteer Fire Company, 424 Hartford Road, Salem, CT 06420.